United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1151
29 May 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council holds consultations on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ More than 22,500 Sudanese refugees have crossed the Kenyan border today, according to a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the situation in the Horn of Africa.

+ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for another six months, until end of November.

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The Security Council is continuing consultations today concerning the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before the Council is the Secretary-General's report describing various options for armed protection of deliveries of humanitarian aid to the region as well as a draft resolution sponsored by Belgium, France, the United Kingdom and the United States proposing steps to restore peace in the area, including sanctions against the Belgrade authorities.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay, said today that the Council would take action on the draft resolution by the end of the weekend. He emphasized that sanctions against Bosnia and Herzegovina would "be a reluctant next step for the Council".

The Vice-President of Yugoslavia, Branko Kostic, has expressed his country's "immense disappointment and indignation" at being accused of committing aggression against against Bosnia and Herzegovina, "without any arguments being offered to back up such accusations".

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 25 May, Mr. Kostic, while reiterating his Government's support for United Nations peace efforts in the region, described the option of sanctions against Yugoslavia as "deeply unfair and wrong". He said "sanctions taken against Yugoslavia can most certainly

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inflict a great deal of harm, materially and politically ... but they are certainly not the way to deal with the tragedy of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

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Following a new eruption of the civil war in Southern Sudan yesterday, more than 22,500 Sudanese refugees -- including 12,500 unaccompanied minors -- streamed across the Kenyan border today. According to a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the situation in the Horn of Africa, thousands more Sudanese are heading for the Kenyan border.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, released $500,000 from her emergency fund to provide urgently needed relief supplies for the new refugees. On 15 May, she appealed to donors for $34 million for the growing emergency in Kenya, but -- according to the report -- as yet no firm pledges have been received.

The new wave of refugees brings to 283,000 the number of Somali, Ethiopian and Sudanese asylum-seekers in Kenya, most of them fleeing from war, drought and famine in their own countries. Since last October, Somali and Ethiopian refugees have been crossing the border at a rate of 1,000 to 2,000 a day. Many of them are suffering from severe dehydration and malnutrition and many have serious war wounds.

The relief programmes set up to help them are a coordinated effort by the United Nations agencies, non-governmental relief organizations, the Government of Kenya and the United Nations "Operation Lifeline Sudan".

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The Security Council this morning decided to renew until 30 November the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) which has been supervising the cease-fire between Israel and Syria since 1974.

Under its unanimous resolution, the Council called on the Secretary-General to report by the end of the new six-month mandate period on developments in the area and on measures taken to implement Security Council resolution 338 of 1973. In that resolution, adopted following the 1973 hostilities, the Council called for a cease-fire and for the parties to start implementing all parts of resolution 242 (1967), which embodied principles for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The Secretary-General had stated in his report to the Council last week that "despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East as a whole continues to be potentially dangerous and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspect of the Middle East problem can be reached".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has announced the establishment of a Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

The purpose of the Committee is to develop confidence-building measures and ways to promote arms restraint and development in the subregion of Central Africa. The membership of the Committee will comprise Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire -- the 10 States members of the Economic Community of Central African States.

The Committee will shortly be holding its organizational meeting at the ministerial level in Yaounde, Cameroon.

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